Claims

What is being claimed is:

1. An apparatus for soaking wood chips or chunks in a fluid and draining the fluid from the wood chips or chunks, comprising:

a container having a sidewall and a bottom surface, the bottom surface and at least a portion of the sidewall being contiguous for containing a fluid therein and for holding the wood chips or chunks within the fluid, and,

a lid having at least one aperture and being coupled to the container.

2. An apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the container includes means to retain the fluid entirely within the container.

3. An apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the container has means for permitting liquid to pass into the container when the container is immersed in fluid and drain the fluid from the container as the container is no longer immersed in fluid.

4. An apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein the wood chips or chunks are maintained in a totally submerged state after the addition of the soaking fluid.

5. An apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising means for draining said container by a person using only one hand to do so.

6. An apparatus for soaking wood chips or chunks in a liquid and draining the liquid from the wood chips or chunks, comprising:

a container having a sidewall and a bottom surface, the container for holding the wood chips or chunks; and,

a lid having at least one aperture and being removably coupled to the container.

7. An apparatus as set forth in claim 6, the container being constructed from a heat-resistant material and being adapted for placement on a source of heat for generating smoke from the wood chips or chunks after the liquid has been drained from the wood chips or chunks.

8. An apparatus as set forth in claim 6, the container being adapted to contain the liquid while the wood chips or chunks are soaking.

9. An apparatus as set forth in claim 6, the sidewall of the container including at least one aperture.

10. An apparatus as set forth in claim 6, the bottom surface of the container including at least one aperture.

11. An apparatus as set forth in claim 10, further comprising:

a plurality of legs connected to a bottom of the container; and,

at least one projection on the bottom surface of the container.

12. An apparatus as set forth in claim 6, the container including:

a pair of vertical grooves located on opposite sides of the container;

a plurality of horizontal grooves extending into the vertical grooves, the lid including a pair of tabs located on opposite ends, wherein the lid may be positioned at various heights relative to the container by sliding the tabs down the vertical grooves and turning the lid such that the tabs slide into a pair of opposite horizontal grooves.

13. An apparatus as set forth in claim 6, the container including threads, the lid being threadably engaged with the container.

14. An apparatus as set forth in claim 13, the lid including a lip for engaging the threads on the container.

15. An apparatus for disseminating the smoke from heated wood chips or chunks comprising,

a container in which the wood chips are disposed;

a mechanism for placement of the container on a grill is a selected place; and

a bonnet disposed on the container, wherein the bonnet has a passageway through which smoke from the heated wood chips or chunks can be directed to a specific portion of the grill.

16. A method for soaking and wood chips or chunks and draining fluid not absorbed by the wood chips or chunks, comprising:

placing the wood chips or chunks in a container;

placing a lid on the container at a position relative to a level of wood chips or chunks in the container;

immersing the wood chips or chunks in a liquid;

soaking the wood chips or chunks in the liquid for a period of time; and,

draining the liquid from the wood chips or chunks.

17. A method as set forth in claim 16, the container having a bottom surface and a sidewall, the bottom surface and the sidewall for containing the liquid therein, the lid having at least one aperture therein, the step of draining the liquid from the wood chips or chunks including the step of tilting the container or turning the container upside down such that the liquid drains from the container through the at least one aperture in the lid.

18. A method as set forth in claim 16, the container being constructed from a heat-resistant material, the method further comprising the step of placing the container on a source of heat for generating smoke from the wood chips or chunks after the liquid has been drained from the wood chips or chunks.

19. A method as set forth in claim 16, the container having a sidewall and a bottom surface and at least one aperture in the sidewall and/or bottom surface, the step of immersing the wood chips or chunks including the step of immersing the container in the liquid, the liquid filling the container through the at least one aperture.

20. A method as set forth in claim 16, the step of draining the liquid from the wood chips or chunks including the step of removing the container from the liquid and allowing the liquid to drain from the container through the at least one aperture.

21. A method as set forth in claim 16, the container having a sidewall and a bottom surface, the step of immersing the wood chips or chunks including the step of filling the container with the liquid.

22. A method as set forth in claim 21, the lid having at least one aperture, the step of draining the liquid from the wood chips or chunks including the step of tilting the container such that the liquid drains from the container through the at least one aperture.

23. A method as set forth in claim 21, the step of draining the liquid from the wood chips or chunks including the step of turning the container upside down such that the liquid drains from the container through the at least one aperture.